

Case 2585

Ophonus Dejean, 1821 and *Tachys* Dejean, 1821 (Insecta, Coleoptera): proposed designation of type species

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Abstract. The purpose of this application is to retain the names for the ground beetle genera *Ophonus* Dejean, 1821 and *Tachys* Dejean, 1821 in their accustomed usage by designation of *Carabus sabulicola* Panzer, 1796 and *Tachys scutellaris* Stephens, 1828 as their respective type species.

1. Dejean (1821) introduced a number of generic names in the CARABIDAE. These names were recently reviewed (Silfverberg, 1983), and in most cases no nomenclatural problems arise. *Ophonus* (p. 13) and *Tachys* (p. 16) are however exceptions.

2. The first valid designation of type species for *Ophonus* was *Carabus germanus* Linnaeus, 1758 (p. 415), designated by Curtis (1827, table 191). Unfortunately this type designation makes *Ophonus* a senior objective synonym of *Diachromus* Erichson, 1837 (p. 43). Noonan (1976) suggested that *Carabus sabulicola* Panzer, 1796 (p. 4) be accepted as type species of *Ophonus* but he made no formal application.

3. For *Tachys* the generally accepted type species is *Tachys scutellaris* Stephens, 1828 (p. 5) by subsequent designation by Hope, 1838 (p. 61). This species was not originally included, but all those available species that were listed by Dejean are now included in other genera and any choice among them would lead to confusion (cf. Erwin, 1974).

4. Current use of *Ophonus* and *Tachys* is, since Jeannel (1941–42), consistent with *Carabus sabulicola* and *Tachys scutellaris* respectively as type species. A list of references is held by the Commission Secretariat. To upset this long standing usage would not serve stability but merely create confusion.

5. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

(1) to use its plenary powers:

- (a) to set aside all previous type designations made for the nominal genus *Ophonus* Dejean, 1821, and to designate *Carabus sabulicola* Panzer, 1796 as type species;
- (b) to set aside all previous type designations made for the nominal genus *Tachys* Dejean, 1821, and to designate *Tachys scutellaris* Stephens, 1828 as type species;

(2) to place the following names on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology:

- (a) *Ophonus* Dejean, 1821 (gender: masculine), type species by designation in (1) (a) above, *Carabus sabulicola* Panzer, 1796;
- (b) *Tachys* Dejean, 1821 (gender: masculine), type species by designation in (1) (b) above, *Tachys scutellaris* Stephens, 1828;

- (3) to place the following names on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:
- (a) *sabulicola* Panzer, 1796, as published in the binomen *Carabus sabulicola* (specific name of the type species of *Ophonus* Dejean, 1821);
 - (b) *scutellaris* Stephens, 1828, as published in the binomen *Tachys scutellaris* (specific name of the type species of *Tachys* Dejean, 1821).

References

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